



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/780,597	02/19/2004	Yoshinori Katayama	1448.1051	3379
21171	7590	07/26/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			LEWIS, CHERYL RENE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2167	

DATE MAILED: 07/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/780,597	<b>Applicant(s)</b> KATAYAMA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Cheryl Lewis	<b>Art Unit</b> 2167	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>2/19/04</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-19 are presented for examination.

### **PRIORITY**

2. Applicant has complied and receives the benefit of priority of an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 119(e) to Japanese application 2003-343829 filed October 1, 2003.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1, 7, 13, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 1, 7, 13, and 14 recite "a co-occurrence". The claimed "co-occurrence" is difficult to interpret and understand. It appears that the "co-occurrence" must be a qualification that must be met. The reason why this element is difficult to interpret is because the claims recite "a co-occurrence", but the claims do not recite what that a "co-occurrence" is nor does the specification give any particular qualities, attributes, or specifics detailing the "co-occurrence".

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

6. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Prompt et al. (Pat. No. 6,985,905 B2 filed March 2, 2001, hereinafter Prompt).

7. Regarding Claims 1, 7, 13, and 14, Prompt teaches a system and method for providing access to databases via directories and other hierarchical structures and interfaces.

The method and associated system for providing access to databases via directories and other hierarchical structures and interfaces as taught or suggested by Prompt includes:

extracting metadata related to a plurality of persons from among electronic data that include information about the persons (figure 19A, elements 1901-1950, Table or View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67); linking the metadata extracted based on a co-occurrence of the information about the persons in the electronic data (figure 19A, elements 1901-1950, Table or

Art Unit: 2167

View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67); and displaying graphically relationship between the persons based on the metadata linked (figure 19A, elements 1901-1950, Table or View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67).

8. Regarding Claims 2, 8, and 15, Prompt teaches an electronic document on the Internet (figure 19A, elements 1901-1950, Table or View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67).

9. Regarding Claims 3, 9, and 16, Prompt teaches linking includes linking the metadata based on the co-occurrence of the information about the persons in a combined electronic data which is obtained by combining a plurality electronic data (figure 19A, elements 1901-1950, Table or View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67).

10. Regarding Claims 4, 10, 17, Prompt teaches the linking the metadata based on the co-occurrence of the information about the persons in combined electronic data

Art Unit: 2167

which is obtained by combining a plurality of electronic data (figure 19A, elements 1901-1950, Table or View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67).

11. Regarding Claims 5, 11, and 18, Prompt teaches retrieving from among the metadata linked in the metadata linking process (figure 19A, elements 1901-1950, Table or View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67), the metadata that satisfy a filter condition (figure 19A, elements 1901-1950, Table or View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67), and displaying includes displaying graphically the relationship between the persons based on the metadata retrieved (figure 19A, elements 1901-1950, Table or View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67).

12. Regarding Claims 6, 12, and 19, Prompt teaches displaying a suitable venue for assembly of the persons whose relationship has been displayed (figure 19A, elements

Art Unit: 2167

1901-1950, Table or View Name, Primary Key, Display Name Attribute, Display Title, and Base Table, figure and figures 19-23B, col. 30, lines 25-67, col. 31, lines 1-67, col. 32, lines 1-67, col. 33, lines 1-67, col. 1-67, col. 34, lines 1-67, col. 35, lines 1-67, col. 36, lines 1-67, col. 37, lines 1-67).

### **NAME OF CONTACT**

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Lewis whose telephone number is (571) 272-4113. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30-3:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cottingham can be reached on (571) 272-7079. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

(571) 273-4113 (Use this FAX #, only after approval by Examiner, for "INFORMAL" or "DRAFT" communication. Examiners may request that a formal paper/amendment be faxed directly to them on occasions.).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist/ Technology Center (571) 272-2100.

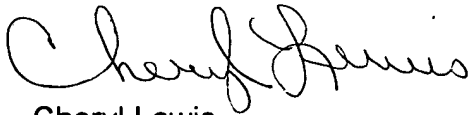
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

Art Unit: 2167

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the

Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheryl" being more prominent than the last name "Lewis".

Cheryl Lewis  
Patent Examiner  
July 24, 2006